

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital.

G. HART, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector (at present in H.M. Forces).

G. B. BROWN, M.S.I.A.

Temporary Sanitary Inspector.

Boldon Urban District Council, 1944.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. CORNTHWAITE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. TRACEY, J.P.

COUN. C. S. GREGSON.

COUN. R. PARRY.

„ J. JOHNSON.

„ MRS. M. STEWART.

„ C. KIRTON.

„ F. H. THUBRON.

„ R. McDARMONT.

„ J. WHITE.

„ E. NEWTON.

„ W. T. WILSON.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR J. CORNTHWAITE, J.P.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

Deputy „ „ „ ANDREW FORBES, M.B.,
C.H.B.

Sanitary Inspector : GERRARD HART, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Temporary Sanitary Inspector : GEO. B. BROWN, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS H. MILLAR.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent : THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH.

Matron : MISS A. VEALE.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Boldon Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby present my report for the year 1944, which for the exception of some relaxation of the Civil Defence Services, is somewhat similar to the previous reports during the latter war years.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, only a skeleton outline of essential matter regarding Public Health may be mentioned, in order to conserve paper and prevent information being of use to the enemy.

The health of the district continues to be satisfactory, in fact, epidemiologically, both endemic and epidemic trends show, statistically, this area to be one of the healthiest in the County.

In comparison with the past year there was a decrease of seven deaths, more than 44 % being over the age of 70 years, and in view of the fact that, on the whole, the more vigorous and fit inhabitants are away on active service, this percentage gives no cause for complaint.

In regard to Infectious Diseases, there was a decrease over the last year. With the subsequent removal of the Blackout and therefore better ventilation of houses, we can expect further improvement in the incidence of disease caused by droplet spray, as seen in most of the fever and chest complaints. It should be remembered however, that a community suffering from prolonged subnormal vitamins owing to the shortage of meat and fats, is always ripe for a sudden increase of infectious disease, such as, influenza which may reach a pandemic surge. The "sweating sickness" of medieval times, which was probably a form of influenza and was with us again shortly after the last war, is an example.

The incidence of DIPHTHERIA was only 10, this happy state is entirely due to the fact that up to 31st December, 1944, over 78% of the children had been immunized against the disease.

As before SCARLET FEVER continues to be a mild disease.

The Health Department has had 22 requests this year for the treatment of SCABIES. All cases were dealt with at the First Aid Post, Intermediate Schools, Boldon Colliery, where special baths were installed for that purpose.

In the Boldon Urban District, I am pleased to report, that up to the present, the notifications of TUBERCULOSIS are below that of the last few years, yet, on the other hand, most districts show an increase in the incidence of this scourge. Too optimistic a view however, should not be taken regarding this area, as other factors should be taken into consideration, such as, the late results of ill-ventilation and blackout conditions in Hostels and Factories; subnormal diets, especially in vitamins and fats; an increase of overcrowding from the return of members of the forces and a probable increase of this disease in a few years when the present adolescents reach the dangerous age for infection due primarily from the above adverse conditions during their growing period, with the result that the above will eventually reveal latent infections that have become rekindled. A foretaste of what we may expect is reflected in the present day admissions to a Sanatorium, of which I am the Medical Superintendent; here, the patients show a decided increase in the severity of this disease, many are admitted in the last stages, the end of which is swift, but fortunate by means of medication, is painless and quiet. The emaciated, anaemic and toxic condition of some of these patients is in part due to some of the above factors and also due to the increase in length of the waiting list of admissions to Sanatorium. In the future, this list will of necessity increase in length, as when mass radiography becomes routine, unsuspected lesions will be revealed.

Better housing and living conditions ; segregation of the dangerously infected patients and increased Sanatorium accommodation are some of the points which will mitigate this evil, or, otherwise the century curve of the present tuberculosis graph trend will show a steep incline instead of the opposite, as at the beginning of this War when we were approaching the base line of this curve.

The chief causes of death, cancer, heart disease and intercranial vascular disorders were much the same as in previous years.

Towards the end of the year the Civil Defence was pruned down to one Ambulance Depot, two Ambulances, two Paid Ambulance Drivers and twelve Voluntary Ambulance Personnel. As before, all performed their allotted tasks without complaint.

R. C. F. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT, 1944.

Statistics from the Registrar General.

RESIDENT POPULATION.

14,650.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Measles	32
Smallpox .....	....
Scarlet Fever	15
Diphtheria	5
Enteric Fever .....	....
Pneumonia	8
Puerperal Fever .....	....
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	....
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	10

Births and Deaths.

LIVE BIRTHS.		M.	F.
Total		140	139
Legitimate		135	135
Illegitimate		5	4

The Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population is 19.04.

STILL BIRTHS.		M.	F.
Total		4	3
Legitimate		4	3
Illegitimate .....		..	..

During 1944 there were 7 Still Births in the District.

The Still Birth Rate of the estimated population is .4.

Infantile Mortality.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.		M.	F.
Total		7	8
Legitimate		7	8
Illegitimate .....		..	..

Death Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births 53.7.

The following table shews the infantile mortality rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1944 as compared with the preceding 4 years.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.

	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1940	27.8
	1941	71.4
	1942	59.9
	1943	47.1
	1944	53.7

Of the 15 Infantile Deaths, 2 were due to Premature Births, 5 from Birth Injuries, and 8 from Pneumonia etc.

The following Table shews the variation in the Birth and Death Rates and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1944.

	Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1940	16.8	11.95 Crude Death Rate.
	1941	14.5	15.76
	1942	15.3	12.8
	1943	19.2	13.5
	1944	19.04	12.8

Comparability Factor.

The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions. Hence the death Rate of 12.8 is merely the Crude Death Rate and cannot be corrected, at present, for the district.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

One death was notified as being due to puerperal sepsis.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1944.

The causes of all the deaths in the district during 1944 of males and females are shown in the following table :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever
2. Measles
3. Scarlet Fever
4. Whooping Cough
5. Diphtheria
6. Influenza	2	2	4

<i>Cause of Death.</i>		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	..	..	..
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever . . . . .	..	..	..
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	2	3	5
10.	Other Tuberculosis diseases..	1	1	2
11.	Syphilis . . . . .	..	..	..
12.	G.P.I., tabies, etc. . . . .	..	..	..
13.	Cancer, malignant disease ..	16	18	34
14.	Diabetes . . . . .	..	1	1
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ..	..	..	..
16.	Heart disease	17	22	39
17.	Aneurysm . . . . .	..	..	..
18.	Other circulatory diseases ..	2	3	5
19.	Bronchitis	3	3	6
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	4	8	12
21.	Other respiratory diseases ..	2	1	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer . . . . .	..	..	..
23.	Diarrhoea under 2 years . . . . .	..	..	..
24.	Appendicitis	1	2	3
25.	Cirrosis of liver . . . . .	..	..	..
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc. ..	..	..	..
27.	Other digestive diseases	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis	5	1	6
29.	Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	..	1	1
30.	Other puerperal causes . . . . .	..	..	..
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	4	5	9
32.	Senility . . . . .	..	..	..
33.	Suicide . . . . .	..	..	..
34.	Other violent causes	3	..	3
35.	Intra cran : vace ; lesions	14	17	31
36.	Road traffic accidents . . . . .	..	..	..
37.	All other causes	14	7	21
		92	96	188

A comparison of this table with previous tables shows an increase of Deaths under Cancer and Pneumonia. Tuberculosis and Other Violent causes show a decrease.

The remaining categories of Death are approximately as in previous years.

TABLE III.
BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1944.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—				
BIRTHS—				
Live	17.6†	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still	0.50‡	0.64	0.61	0.42
DEATHS—				
All Causes	11.6†	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—				
Deaths under 1 year of age	46†	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1
*A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths. † Per 1,000 related Births. ‡ Rates per 1,000 Total Population.				
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ..	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—				
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Puerperal Fever	10.34	13.13	9.25	3.61
Puerperal Pyrexia }				‡14.14

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion Without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142—6 148—150 Other
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25

ABORTION : Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England and Wales.

No. 140 with Sepsis.	No. 141 without Sepsis.
25	7

‡Including Puerperal Fever.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA.****LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the University of Durham at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by arrangement with the County Council.

Bacteriological Examinations for the Year 1944 :—

<i>For Tubercle Baccilli.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive	5	Positive	1
Negative	34	Negative	4
	—		—
	39		5
	==		==

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—There is no change from the preceding year—these are adequate.

NURSING, ETC.—As regard facilities for Nursing in the home, and the provision of treatment centres and clinics, there is no change from the preceding year.

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.—No change.

BOLDON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the past year 36 cases of Infectious disease were admitted to the wards. No outside cases were admitted.

A summary of the cases admitted into Hospital is shewn thus :—

	<i>In the Area.</i>	<i>No. of days in Hospital.</i>
Scarlet Fever	19	470
Diphtheria	10	307
Tonsilitis	1	9
Tonsilectomy .....	..	..
Measles	3	23
Typhoid .....	..	..
Erysipelas	1	19
Septic Mumps .....	..	..
Teething Rash .....	..	..
Food Rash .....	..	..
Ulcerated Bowel .....	..	..
Pneumonia .....	..	..
Chicken Pox.....	1	13
Urticaria	1	11
	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 852

The number of Swabs taken during the past year were 30, including outside cases.

K.L.B.	27
Haemolytic Streptococci	2
Vincent's Angina	1

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Up to the moment there have been but few cases of infectious diseases in this community. SCARLET FEVER began to decline years ago, and has continued to do so.

DIPHTHERIA also showed a satisfactory decline in this District. The incidence of Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis was below the average. Measles showed an increase in common with the rest of the County.

During the year there were 10 cases of DIPHTHERIA in this district.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises has been carried out by your Staff on the removal of all cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient has been nursed at home. The clothing and bedding of the patient is disinfected in the steam disinfectant at the hospital. Disinfections are also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from tuberculosis has occurred.

The number of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceeding 1944, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT													
Year.	Population.												
1939	16,550	23	6	34	..	14	11	..	4	1	..	..	—
1940	14,900	4	3	18	2	10	11	..	6	1	160	8	.....
1941	14,460	4	7	4	1	10	15	..	..	3	218	65	.....
1942	14,350	13	3	10	..	13	18	..	4	3	18	2	.....
1943	14,360	12	17	20	..	13	17	..	17	2	74	11	.....
1944	14,650	10	1	19	..	13	11	..	8	1	35	10	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year, 13 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 11 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

5 deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

TABLE VI.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1944.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
0-5 .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 .....	..	1	2	2	..	..	..	1
15-25	2	3	3	1	..	1	..	..
25-35	2	1	1	1	1	2	..	..
35-45 .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
45-55	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55-65 .....	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	6	7	7	4	2	3	1	1

WATER SUPPLIES.

As before, the district is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Board. Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the owners. This examination is necessary in case any water-borne disease is brought into the district by troops or evacuees.

A typical Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination of the water supply is given below :—

<i>Chemical Analysis.</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total Solids	52.3
Chlorine as Chloride	5.00
Chlorine expressed as Sodium Chloride	8.25
Free Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0015
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.10
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil.
Alkalinity	29.60
Total hardness (degrees).....	30.4
Colour (Hazen degrees)	less than 5
Suspended Matter	Nil.
Iron	Nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C. 3 per cc

Coliform organisms—

1cc	10cc s	100cc s
Absent.	Absent.	Absent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No important extension of the Council's sewerage system has been made during the year.

In connection with a campaign against the sewer rat, instituted by the Ministry of Food with a view to conserve the food stocks in the Country, two treatments of the sewer manholes were carried out, a different bait base and poison being used in each case.

The estimated kill in the first treatment was 240 rats and in the second 114.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No case of serious pollution has arisen during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Little alteration has been made to the Sanitary conveniences in the district during the year, as will be seen from the following table :—

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING TYPES OF CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Ash Closets	77	77	76	76	76
Water Closets . .	4,879	4,892	4,899	4,856	4,857
Chemical Closets	7	7	7	7	7

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The district continues to be scavenged in a satisfactory manner, complaints of neglect being practically nil.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—

<i>Inspections and Visits.</i>	1944.
Number of complaints investigated	83
Number of inspections other than dwelling-houses	126
Number of inspections and Visits to Dwelling-houses under the Public Health Acts	229
Number of informal Notices served	147
Number of Nuisances abated	141
Number of Statutory Notices served	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number inspected	6
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated	38
Number of Houses disinfected	38
Lots of infectious bedding disinfected or destroyed	32

DRAINS TESTED	19
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SHOPS.—Visited and inspected during the year . .	93
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CAMPING SITES.

No Camp Sites have been licensed during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been received during the year regarding nuisances from smoke.

Spraying with water continues to have a good effect in controlling one fiery pit heap nuisance in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Number of houses found to be infested.....	2
Number disinfested	2

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the district is satisfactory, and it has not been necessary to take any action during the past year in respect of infectious disease amongst school children.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK SUPPLY.**

Visits and Inspections to dairies and byres during the year were :—24 dairies and 19 byres. Total 43. Nine samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

The following Dealers' licences to use the special designations stated, were renewed for 12 months under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. :—

Retailing Licences ' Pasteurised '	3
Bottling Licence 'Tuberculin Tested '.....	1
Retailing Licence ' Tuberculin Tested'.....	1
Retailing Licence ' Accredited '	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

5 Licenses for Slaughter-houses have been renewed.

No slaughtering takes place in this district at present however, except the slaughtering of animals for Home Consumption under licences from the Food Control Committee. The number of animals slaughtered under these licences during 1944 was, 82 pigs.

Inspections take place at the Butcher's Shops and the allocation Depot in this area and at other premises where food is prepared.

56 seizures (by surrender) of unsound foods, mostly tinned, were made. These comprised 31 different types of food.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council take samples under the Food and Drugs Acts in this District.

